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Subject: KAYASHI Saburo

Report No: 277-51

Date of Information: December 1951

Place Acquired: Japan, Tokyo

Date Acquired: February 1952

Evaluation:

Date of Report: 21 March 1952

Source: Japanese with intelligence background, long acquainted with KAYASHI and a former associate in intelligence work.

[redacted] 1. KAYASHI Saburo (川島 三郎), a former infantry colonel in the Japanese army, has become a military affairs commentator and writer. He lives in Tokyo at 123 1-chome, Suginomiyama, Nakano-ku.

2. KAYASHI was graduated from the Military Academy in 1925 and from the War College in approximately 1936. His military career to 1945 included the following positions:

1937-1938, attached to the JGOS Soviet Desk.
1938-1939, sent to Latvia and the USSR for special study.
1939-1940, assistant military attaché in the Japanese embassy in Moscow. During this period he spent about a month working on a special study of Soviet intelligence activities in Latvia and was occasionally jailed in Riga to assist the office of the Japanese military attaché there when work became too heavy.
1941-1943, member and later chief of the Soviet Desk of JGOS.
1944, chief of the Organization and Mobilization Section of JGOS.
1945, April to August, secretary to General KAMI Korechika, the Minister of War, who committed suicide on 16 August 1945.

3. After the war, until 1949, KAYASHI was employed in various agencies doing historical intelligence work. From September 1945 until late 1947, he was employed by the Historical Material Section of the Demobilization Bureau, working with MARUKE Seizo, and during part of this period (September 1946 to January 1947) he also worked with TSUCHIHI Hiroshi for G-2, JGOS. In the latter capacity, he was instrumental in organizing a group for exchange of information, including TSUKAMOTO Makoto, a former Keigai colonel, and TSUCHIHI Yukio, a former infantry colonel. From August 1947 until the end of the year, KAYASHI worked for his former commander, MOI Akio, collecting intelligence for the use of the Chinese Mission in Japan.⁴ In late 1947, he made a contact with the intelligence section of PEAV and ceased to work for MOI. When the KAWANE Organization was formed in 1948, KAYASHI was considered for inclusion, but he was finally rejected because G-2 objected to his "arrogant attitude" and he was considered hard to get along with.

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4. About the beginning of 1949, NAYASHI began a new career as military critic and commentator. His first book, History of the Ground Forces in the Pacific War, published by Iwanami Shoten, was successful enough to enable him to purchase a house in Nakano-ku and to establish himself fairly well financially. He writes and publishes articles in various periodicals. He still maintains contact with FEAF Intelligence section.
5. Among NAYASHI's closest acquaintances are the following:
- SHIBATA Kanaji, former infantry lieutenant colonel, employed by G-2 Historical Section, FEAF, his classmate at the War College and a fellow-member of the JICOB Intelligence Section, a close friend for years.
- DOI Akie, his former superior, with whom he maintained connections in 1951 through the Northern Affairs Research Institute, after he had severed earlier intelligence connections.
- SATOJI Takushiro, a close friend from 1940 to 1948, but estranged since 1949, when SATOJI published in Shukan Asahi a severe criticism of NAYASHI's book.
- SAKURADA Seisaku, a former superior; although NAYASHI worked for him until late 1946, they are completely incompatible and broke off relations after a clash when they ceased to work together.
- YOSHIMOTO Makoto, exact relationship unknown, but he meets NAYASHI once a month to exchange information.
- NAYASHI is a brilliant and capable man, honest and trustworthy, but quick tempered, highly emotional, and obstinate. He has great self-confidence and yields to direction only from such former superiors as DOI. His specialty in intelligence were Soviet documents. He knows Russian fairly well and some French.
1. Field Comment. Information in G-2 files states that he completed the preparatory course at the Military Academy in March 1920, was attached to the 9 Infantry Regiment, and entered the Military Academy in October 1923. Upon graduation he was commissioned a second lieutenant on 25 October 1925. Part of his military record appears to be missing; there is no information from 1925 to 1941 in official files. He was born in Kyoto 1 June 1904.
2. Field Comment. He returned to Japan in December 1940 and was made a lieutenant colonel in March 1941, according to G-2 files.
3. Field Comment. G-2 files show that he was promoted to colonel in March 1944 and that in July 1944 he was a member of the Army Investigation Committee for Minitudes. On 1 September 1945 he was in the Information Office of the Information Bureau.

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4. Field Comment: DOI's activities after the war are reported in EJ7-26.
5. Field Comment: CIO and ATTS interviewed NAYASHI several times during 1948 but not successfully; the interviewers disliked his over-confident attitude and he resented being re-questioned on information he had previously supplied. He was under G-2 surveillance for some time and was reported to be unemployed but to dress and live well; his address at that time was in care of YOKO Taro, 22 Fusono-machi, Nakano-ku, Tokyo.
6. Field Comment: For an evaluation of NAYASHI as a military writer and intelligence operator, see numerous ZII reports, including those on HATTORI TAKAHIDE and ISUKAWA TOSHI Nakatetsu.

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